

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claims 1-10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A process for producing a high-molecular weight aliphatic polyester, which comprises subjecting a ring-opening (co)polymer of glycolide or a mixture containing at least 70% by weight of glycolide and at most 30% by weight of another cyclic monomer to a chain-lengthening reaction with an oxazoline compound having at least two oxazoline ring structures in its molecule to highly increase the molecular weight thereof to the extent that a ratio ( $Mw_2/Mw_1$ ) of a weight average molecular weight ( $Mw_2$ ) of the ring-opening (co)polymer after the chain lengthening to a weight average molecular weight ( $Mw_1$ ) of the ring-opening (co)polymer before the chain lengthening is 1.65 to 10.00,

wherein the chain-lengthening reaction is conducted in the presence of the oxazoline compound in a proportion within a range of 1 to 10 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ring-opening (co)polymer,

wherein the ring-opening (co)polymer before the chain lengthening has a weight average molecular weight of 30,000 to 110,000 and is subjected to the chain-lengthening reaction to produce the high-molecular weight ring-opening (co)polymer, and

wherein the ring-opening (co)polymer and the oxazoline compound are subjected to the chain-lengthening reaction under conditions wherein the reaction temperature is not lower than

the melting temperature of the ring-opening (co)polymer, but not higher than 240°C, and the reaction time is 10 to 30 minutes, thereby obtaining a high-molecular weight ring-opening (co)polymer having the following properties:

a) the weight average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of the ring-opening (co)polymer after the chain lengthening, whose molecular weight has been increased by the chain-lengthening reaction, is 181,000 to 500,000,

b) a molecular weight distribution ( $M_w/M_n$ ) represented by a ratio of a weight average molecular weight ( $M_w$ ) of the ring-opening (co)polymer, whose molecular weight has been highly increased by the chain-lengthening reaction, to a number average molecular weight ( $M_n$ ) thereof is 2.30 to 4.50, and

c) a difference ( $T_2 - T_1$ ) between a 1%-weight loss-starting temperature  $T_2$  on heating of the ring-opening (co)polymer after the chain lengthening and a 1%-weight loss-starting temperature  $T_1$  on heating of the ring-opening (co)polymer before the chain lengthening is 20°C to 30°C, wherein the 1%-weight loss-starting temperature  $T_2$  on heating of the ring-opening (co)polymer after the chain lengthening is at least 252°C.

Claims 12-25 (Canceled).

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The production process according to claim 11, wherein the chain-lengthening reaction is conducted in the presence of the oxazoline compound

in a proportion within a range of 1 to 5 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the ring-opening (co)polymer.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): The production process according to claim 11, wherein the oxazoline compound having at least two oxazoline ring structures in its molecule is 2,2'-m-phenylene-bis(2-oxazoline).

Claims 29-31 (Canceled).